

JOHN F. KENNEDY

1961 - 1963



John Fitzgerald Kennedy, of Irish descent, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, on May 29, 1917. The first of our presidents born in the 20th Century. He graduated from Harvard in 1940 and joined the Navy in 1941. As skipper of a PT boat, he survived a sinking and also saved an enlisted man. He wrote *Profiles in Courage*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in history. He was elected to Congress in 1946 and the Senate in 1952.

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy was born in 1929 and grew up in New York City and Long Island. She studied at Vassar and George Washington University. While working for a Washington, D.C. Newspaper after graduation, she met then Sen. Kennedy. They were married in 1953. They had two children, Caroline and John, Jr. Two other children died in infancy.



President John Kennedy was elected in 1961, the Nation's first Roman Catholic president. His Inaugural Address included the memorable: "Ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country." He brought to the country the idea of a "New Frontier" in dealing with world and domestic problems, and the exploration of outer space. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, and he brought the country through the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. In Dallas on November 22, 1963 President Kennedy was shot and killed by Lee Harvey Oswald. The alleged assassin was killed two days later, while he was in custody. This strange event left many questions about the murder of the President Kennedy unanswered.

Jacqueline Kennedy's public appearances as First Lady were successful, but limited. Her interest in the Arts was much publicized, and she devoted much time and study to making the White House a museum of American history, as well as a family residence. She said her major role was to take care of the president. She won the world's admiration for her courage during the tragedy of her husband's death. In 1968, she married Aristotle Onassis. She died in New York City in 1994.

Arizona Timeline

1961 - Stewart Udall becomes first Arizonan to serve on Cabinet. He is the Secretary of Interior in the J. F. Kennedy administration.

1963 - Arizona wins Supreme Court decision in contest with California over share of Colorado River water. Arizona is awarded rights to 2,800,000 acre feet of water a year from the Colorado River.